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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 2, 2010, at 12.30 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2010

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, whose approval we seek above humanity's hollow applause, we pause today to experience the warmth of Your presence as You lift the light of Your countenance upon us.

Give to the Members of this body pure hearts and a passion to faithfully serve You and country. Across their toiling hours, keep their hearts fixed on You, the author and finisher of their faith. In a world of suspense, suspicion, and turmoil, breathe now in this quiet moment Your peace on every heart. Lord, prepare solutions for our Senators' complexities and resolve their conflicts in a way that will glorify You.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK R. WARNER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 1, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, there will be a period of morning business until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. At 3 p.m., we will turn to consideration of H.R. 4213, the tax extenders legislation. Senator BAUCUS will be recognized to call up a substitute amendment. As previously announced, there will be no rollcall votes today. The first vote of the week will occur at 12:15 p.m. tomorrow. That vote will be on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Barbara Keenan to be U.S. circuit judge for the Fourth Circuit.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 4626 AND H.R. 4691

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bills by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4626) to restore the application of the Federal antitrust laws to the business of health insurance to protect competition and consumers.

A bill (H.R. 4691) to provide a temporary extension of certain programs, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. I object to any further proceedings with respect to these two bills.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The bills will be placed on the calendar.

COSTLY INACTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, every night too many out-of-work Nevadans and Americans, people who want to work, who need to support their families but can't find a job, go to bed with at least the comfort of having unemployment insurance and health benefits. Last night, more than a million people throughout America who went to sleep relying on those benefits woke up without the confidence they will be there now. Early this morning, when they would rather be spending their mornings working, mothers and fathers in every State woke up to line up at the unemployment office in a long line. News reports today are that these lines

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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